



City of Fitchburg Chickens & Beekeeping on Residential Lots



The rules and regulations detailed in this pamphlet are from the Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance. Some Fitchburg subdivisions may have rules or “deed restrictions” which go beyond these regulations, or which may not allow chickens or bees on residential lots. You should have received a copy of your subdivision’s “deed restrictions” when you purchased your property.

Limited Animal Husbandry, which includes the raising of rabbits, poultry, beekeeping, fish farming, and only where and when the person performing the animal husbandry lives on site, is permitted on residential zoned properties (R-L, R-LM, R-M, or R-H).

Enclosures must obey front setbacks and cannot be less than four feet from a side or rear lot line. They cannot be taller than the principal structure, cannot exceed 400 square feet in floor area and cannot be taller than 15 feet in height. Such accessory structure shall not be forward the front face of the principal structure.

Chickens: The number of chickens that can be on a residential lot depends on the size of the lot. Twenty-five (25) chickens are allowed per acre (43,560 sq ft), or pro-rated portion of an acre.

Example Chicken Allowance	
Lot Size	Number of Chickens Allowed
One acre (43,560 sq ft)	25
10,000 sq ft	6
8,000 sq ft	5

Beekeeping: The number of beehives that can be on a residential lot depends on the size of the lot. Four (4) beehives are allowed per acre (43,560 sq ft), or pro-rated portion of an acre.

Example Beehive Allowance	
Lot Size	Number of Beehives Allowed
One acre (43,560 sq ft)	4
10,000 sq ft	1
8,000 sq ft	1

Additional Information

If you have additional questions, please contact the Planning/Zoning Department.